

Applicant: Wilkinson, A. G. Jr.
Serial No.: 10/734,347
June 21, 2005

CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. (Once Amended/Allowed) A barbeque fork for holding and removing food items, said fork comprising:

a handle;

a tine head on a first end of said handle, said tine head having at least one tine;

a rod slidably supported on said handle, said rod comprising means for engaging food items on said tine head and means for preventing said rod from pulling free from said handle;

two guides for slidably supporting said rod on said handle, said guides having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod; and

a slot defined by one of said guides.

2. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

at least one guide having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod.

3. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 2, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

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two guides.

4. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 3, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from said slotted guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

5. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for engaging food comprises:

a cross-brace that is approximately perpendicular to said rod.

6. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for preventing said rod from pulling free comprises a stop on said rod having a width that is larger than the width of said rod.

7. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
means for determining the temperature of the food items.

8. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 7, wherein said temperature determining

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means comprises:

a thermometer having a temperature probe operatively associated with said tine head.

9. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a rubber based grip on said handle.

10. (Twice Amended) A barbeque fork for holding and removing food items, said fork comprising:

a handle;

a tine head on a first end of said handle, said tine head having at least one tine;

a rod slidably supported on said handle, said rod comprising means for engaging food items on said tine head and means for preventing said rod from pulling free from said handle; said food engaging means being slidably disposed along an independent plane over and substantially parallel to a top surface of said tine;

at least one guide post for slidably supporting said rod on said handle, said guide post having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod to facilitate movement of said rod across said handle and sliding said food engaging means; and

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from said slotted

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guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

11. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

at least two guides for facilitating controlled lateral movement.

12. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 11, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from said slotted guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

13. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for engaging food comprises:

a cross-brace that is approximately perpendicular to said rod.

14. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for preventing said rod from pulling free comprises a stop on said rod having a width that is larger than the width of said rod.

15. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

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means for determining the temperature of the food items.

16. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 15, wherein said temperature determining means comprises:

a thermometer having a temperature probe operatively associated with said tine head.

17. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

a rubber based grip on said handle.